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ABSTRACT

Womens' studies has created theories about gender and the intersections of gender, race, ethnicity, and sexuality that offer important analytical frameworks for developing multicultural curricula. This chapter reviews the progress of women's studies as a catalyst for the transformation of U.S. higher education curricula. The discussion of feminist scholarship and pedagogy centers on multicultural aspects and analyzes the effects of the development of women's studies on more inclusive frameworks of higher education. The catalyst for the formation of women's studies programs was the student unrest of the 1960s and the subsequent changes to higher education. Subfields of women's studies have emerged, concentrating on different ethnic groups and on lesbian studies. The 1970s produced serious interest in developing theory about the dynamics of feminist classrooms and the beginnings of a feminist pedagogy. These movements are beginning to transform curricula through changes in course requirements and in course content. Women's studies needs expanded institutional support, particularly at the community college, graduate, and professional levels. (Contains 352 references.) (SLD)

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